

THE TALON

OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

Top soldier and NCO selected

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

They both repair attack helicopters, serve in the same squad and even study together for advancement.

Now Staff Sgt. David N. Swaine and Spc. Brian E. Sipe of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Air Cavalry Brigade, have captured Task Force Eagle's attention for their latest joint endeavor.

On May 3, they competed and won the 1st Armored Division NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year, respectively.



"It's hard to believe,"

Swaine

said Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, division command sergeant major. "This is the first time in my 27 years in the Army that I've seen two soldiers come out of the same squad and same platoon and compete at that high a level and win. Both of them are quality soldiers and not just a credit to their unit, but to Task Force Eagle and the U.S. Army."



Sipe

Swaine and Sipe each beat six other competitors before a five-member board of command sergeants major from throughout the task force, not including 4th Brigade. Winning division recognition is only their

See **SOLDIERS**, page 12

A bridge not too far



Capt. Rhonda Reasoner

Task Force Eagle engineers assemble Bailey Bridge sections during a rebridging project on Route Georgia.

BUILDING A FUTURE

Reconstruction aid begins to flow

\$25 million U.S. program to repair 2,500 homes

By Capt. JOHN GOHEEN
29th MPAD

DONJA DOBSNICA — About 2,500 war-damaged homes will soon receive emergency repairs thanks to a \$25 million program announced here Saturday by U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, John Menzies.

The funds, provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, will be the first U.S. taxpayer dollars spent on post-war reconstruction in the former Yugoslavia. The United States provided more than \$1 billion in humanitarian relief during and immediately after the war.

"During the war we provided aid of a different kind: food, medicine," said Menzies. "With this program, we enter a historic transition, from relief to restoration to reconstruction. Today the needs are different but the partners are the same."

"This is the beginning of assistance flowing into this country for reconstruction," he added. "We want to build a new nation in Bosnia; bind the wounds, instill the peace."

Menzies delivered his announcement outside a school before a group of local government, international relief and Task Force Eagle representatives.

Several local people pressed against the school's chain-link fence to capture a glimpse of the proceedings and the four U.S. Army helicopters parked on an adjacent soccer field.

Others watched from the top of cement skeletons that were once homes overlooking the grounds.

Not everyone in this village about 15 kilometers northwest of Tuzla was interested in the visitors, however.

The staccato banging of hammers in the distance indicated that at least some were too busy taking advantage of peace to notice all the activity.

"That's a beautiful sound," said Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander, told the gathering. "It's the sound of peace, and it's going to be heard here in loud ways very soon."

"Peace is not just a military issue," he added.

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From the top

Top NCO emphasizes mutual respect

Treating people with dignity and respect is hardly new for Task Force Eagle soldiers.

But some excellent training this month by our Equal Opportunity advisors will reinforce those basic tenets and give leaders the latest on sexual harassment, prejudice, discrimination and other EO issues.

The training is being taught in a concise, 12-hour session. (See story on page 3.)

EO violations have ended military careers. Therefore, it is important for leaders, to



**Command Sgt.
Maj. Jack L. Tilley**
1st Armored
Division

understand how others feel about various issues.

A person's perception of something is his or her reality. Remember to communicate with your soldiers and listen to what they are saying.

Sometimes sexual harassment is obvious, but often it is not. Judging what is offensive to others is tough because we can't read each other's minds.

But we can teach our soldiers to be respectful of others and conduct themselves in a professional manner at all

times. Respect is something we should all practice — and not just during EO classes. Respect for others should be a part of our lifestyle.

Our Equal Opportunity advisors are well trained on the latest techniques of teaching leaders to recognize sexist or racist behavior in themselves, and quelling such behavior in their troops.

We must teach our soldiers to appreciate each other's differences and judge each person on his or her own merits.

It would be a pretty boring world if we were all alike, so let's embrace our differences and not think of them in a negative context.

If you attend this training, try to forget your concerns for a day. Come with an open mind, ready to learn. Racism and sexism obviously still exist in today's Army, and it's up to us leaders to resolve all EO complaints for the welfare of our troops.

And for you soldiers, if a situation is so bad that you can't talk to your chain of command, I have an open door policy.

Soldiers who are victims of sexual harassment or discrimination do not have to suffer in silence. But they must take the first step and report the incident before further action can be taken.

Viewpoint

How I spent my R&R; or, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

No, this is not another lecture about the dangers of drinking or partying hard while on R&R. Instead, I'll provide some tips from my recent experience for making the most of your money while touring Europe.

My girlfriend and I crammed a two-month European vacation into two weeks.

Three countries, two dozen trains, one pickpocket incident, several meters of sausage and countless "biertgarten" visits. Later, it's back to the mud, HMMWVs, MREs and near-beer.

If he or she isn't already in Germany, the first order of business is getting your spouse or significant Kissy-Poo from the States to Europe. Shop around



**Spc.
Cesar G. Soriano**
29th MPAD

for airfares.

Iceland Air offers roundtrip tickets from Baltimore to Frankfurt for only \$450. Peak season is approaching, so buy tickets early.

When you arrive in Rhine Main Airbase, take the shuttle to Frankfurt International Airport and visit the USO and Carlson Wagonlit offices.

They offer unbelievable discounts on Deutsche Bundesbahn (Germany rail system) tickets, car rentals and package trips to the Armed Forces Recreation Facilities in Garmish and Chimsee. I highly recommend Garmish. It was absolutely beautiful!

And if you're traveling, don't worry about having to lug your battle rattle all over. Frankfurt Airport's guarded, baggage stor-

age area can stow your unneeded gear for 5 DM a day.

Watch your belongings, no matter how safe you think the city is.

My wallet was stolen in Rothenburg, Germany (ironically, right outside of the Criminal Museum) on the last day of my R&R. It was Sunday. Nothing was open. I was up the Sava without a paddle.

I immediately went to the nearest police station and was able to call for help.

The commendable soldiers at the 364th Replacement Detachment Center in Rhine Main Air Force Base and the Military Police at nearby Illesheim Barracks were able to supply me with emergency cash and a train ticket back to Frankfurt.

Soldiers should be aware that all U.S. military bases can give soldiers emergency cash

advances under similar circumstances. But learn from my mistake! Wear a money belt when traveling.

Watch that German beer! After months in Bosnia-Herzegovina your tolerance to alcohol is extremely low.

I am so embarrassed about my first day's tolerance that I should be drowned in a vat of Apple Wine.

When traveling, consider staying at the AFRCs, base guest housing or at cheaper hotels in small towns. The European rail system is very efficient so you need not stay in downtown Paris or Munich.

You can find cheap places to sleep, eat and visit from penny-saver's tour books like the "Let's Go: Europe" series (occasionally available at PXs).

Have a great and safe R&R and have a beer for me.

THE TALON

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Equal Opportunity seminars set

By Sgt. 1st Class **BETTINA E. TILSON**
29th MPAD

Task Force Eagle equal opportunity advisors have found an interesting trend during deployment — units with the most EO complaints are those with the least EO training.

Most units in the task force are part of the 1st Armored Division, which has had an Equal Opportunity program for years.

But the division is not resting on its laurels. EO advisors are conducting eight seminars this month.

"Commanders are reminded that the gains we have made to date with our Equal Opportunity program can quickly erode if we do not continue our seminars and training," said Col. John M. Brown III, task force chief of staff, in a letter to commanders.

Master Sgt. Edward O. Edmonds, task force EO advisor, said commanders may select anyone to attend.

The seminars focus on why soldiers practice prejudice, sexual harassment and discrimination, he said.

A normal three-day garrison seminar is squeezed into one 12-hour session.

Although most troops in the task force have had some type of EO training during their careers, problems persist.

A harassment case may start off, for example, with a male telling suggestive jokes around a new female in the unit.

"In order to fit into the clique — to be a part of the team — (the female soldier) may feel she has to accept it," said Sgt. 1st Class Danny Migenes, 1st Armored Division Artillery EO advisor.

But when the male soldier sees that the female soldier does not rebuff him for telling a dirty joke, he may go even further until the female clearly feels offended.

Soldiers who are sexually harassed must promptly report it through their chain of command, Migenes said.

One EO complaint here involved the posting of stickers found in local packages of chewing gum containing photographs of nude women, Migenes said.

The stickers were a common sight at the beginning of the deployment, but one male soldier with strong religious convictions said they offended him.

At that point, an effort was made to rid common areas of the offensive photos.

Army policy states that such material shall not be displayed publicly and, if posted in a soldier's living quarters, it should not be visible from outside, Migenes said.

If there is a question about a photograph, the commander is the final authority.

"The more support we get from commanders, the better the EO climate will be in the unit," Migenes said.

Each seminar features up-to-date information on EO issue, but understanding complex EO topics such as prejudice and discrimination can be a challenge.

While some soldiers may de-emphasize the significance of EO, others have learned about its importance the hard way. Some have even lost careers over EO complaints.

Leaders must teach soldiers to conduct themselves as professionals, Migenes said.

The goal of the seminars is to encourage soldiers "to start appreciating and valuing people's differences," Edmonds said.

Soldiers to get lump tax refund

By Sgt. 1st Class
BETTINA E. TILSON
29th MPAD

Task Force Eagle service-members who have not already seen a windfall in their end-of-month April paychecks should see the extra dollars appear in their May mid-month check.

The Internal Revenue Service announced it will soon refund — in one lump sum — federal taxes withheld before the March 20 enactment of a bill relieving troops from paying those taxes.

The Combat Zone Tax Exclusion applies only to servicemembers collecting hostile fire pay who are serving in Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia, said Lt. Col. Eric O. Engelbrektsen, commander of 8th Finance Battalion (Forward).

"It's a big change and it's good news for the soldiers," Engelbrektsen said.

Under the law, base pay for enlisted members and warrant officers is completely exempt from federal income taxes. For officers, the first \$4,158.60 a month in 1995 and the first \$4,254.90 in 1996 is excluded.

The law is retroactive to Nov. 21, 1995 — the date the Peace Agreement was signed.

Active-duty enlisted soldiers and active warrant officers, along with some active commissioned officers, should have seen the refund in their April paychecks.

The remainder of active commissioned officers and reserve component soldiers will receive the refund in May, Engelbrektsen said.

The refund amount will vary according to pay grade, years of service and other factors.

Adjusted W-2 forms for 1995 taxes — including the change in tax law affecting pay after Nov. 21 — will be reissued in May.

Servicemembers who have already filed their 1995 returns will have to wait until the adjusted W-2 arrives and then file an amended return.

For more information, soldiers may contact their unit tax advisor or 8th Finance Battalion (Forward) at MSE 551-7309 or 558-5630.

Chief Chaplain



Sgt. Ed Rollins

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Donald W. Shea, Chief of Army chaplain, speaks with Master Sgt. Paul Wanshon of the Task Force Eagle Chaplains Office, during a visit to Eagle Base, Tuesday.

Veteran correspondent completes Bosnia tour

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

After three months in Bosnia-Herzegovina, veteran Associated Press reporter George J. Esper is preparing to return to Boston.

Best known for his coverage of the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1975, Esper didn't leave Southeast Asia until he was expelled by the communist regime five weeks after the fall of Saigon.

While in Bosnia, Esper, now 63, has spent the majority of his time on the road looking for stories.

"Here I'm kind of back to beat reporting. It reminds me a lot of Vietnam," he said.

"The thing that struck me most here was the destruction," Esper said. "Miles and miles of destroyed homes—miles and miles of ghost towns. I didn't see this much destruction in Vietnam."

That anything exceeds Vietnam in Esper's eyes is a statement in itself.

"Vietnam kind of defined my career as a journalist and nothing will ever top that," Esper said.

Reflecting on his early days as a reporter, Esper says relations between the military and the media have changed over the years.

The media had greater access during the Vietnam War then it does now, he said.

"If there was a major battle 30 miles from Saigon, you could get in your car early in the morning and drive right to the scene, park your car on the highway, get out and walk right into the battle," he said. "That was the kind of access we had."

In 1965, Esper once slept on a plane parked on a runway in the town of Dong



Sgt. Rick Roth

George Esper interviews a soldier.

Ha.

He had been covering heavy fighting near the demilitarized zone and was desperate to return to Saigon to file.

"I walk into the cargo compartment and realize ... that I and the crew were the only people alive on that C-130; all around me were body bags," he said. "To keep my sanity I started to draft my stories so that I wouldn't think about all the dead."

The day before the official surrender of the South Vietnamese, people surrounded the U.S. Embassy in Saigon trying to get to the evacuation helicopters.

South Vietnamese soldiers were changing into civilian clothes in the middle of the street, Esper said.

Esper was in his office when news of

the unconditional surrender came over the radio. As an AP Vietnamese translator interpreted the message, Esper wrote a bulletin.

After reading the bulletin, the teletype operator tried to flee. However, Esper held him in the office until the report was completely filed.

Esper is often asked why he spent 10 years in Vietnam. He answers the question with an anecdote about an interview he conducted with a 21-year-old Army nurse working in Dong Hau.

He'd see her every day trying to save the lives of soldiers injured in battle, and comfort those who were dying.

"What motivated you?" he inquired.

"She said, and I'll never forget this, 'I never felt more worthwhile, in my life,' and I realized that's why I stayed, because I felt very worthwhile. If you feel worthwhile that means a lot. It means more than money, any financial reward, and I felt that way about Vietnam. I couldn't let go."

Esper also covered Operation DESERT STORM and Operation RESTORE HOPE, the U.S. involvement in Somalia.

"I think reporters do have a duty and an obligation to go after the news and to hell with the political implications," Esper said. "Indeed we love America, but really our obligation is to tell the truth and to be honest."

Years ago, Esper said he was struggling with a story on a big event. Staring at blank paper, the budding journalist believed he was going to be fired.

"A colleague tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Just tell em' what happened, kid,'" Esper said. "And that's what I've been trying to do for all these years — just tell them what happened."

Rock band surprises Emerald City with outdoor concert



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Dawny Red and her band entertain a group of soldiers on a USO Tour stop at Emerald City.

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

EMERALD CITY — Despite an early deployment rumor, every day is not Groundhog Day in Bosnia. Sometimes, soldiers have no idea what will happen next.

For instance, most soldiers here weren't expecting a CH-47 Chinook to bring the Dawny Redd Band to play a mix of country, rock and blues.

The four-person Fresno, Calif., group is a Department of Defense-sponsored band that has been on tour entertaining U.S. troops around the world.

The band played on a makeshift stage suitable for the "land of Oz." Sand bags, rusting and

bent steel, crumbling concrete and broken glass — remnants of a dilapidated steel factory — framed their performance.

An M1A1 Abrams tank pulled up to provide tiered seating for the show. About 100 soldiers gathered to hear the music on a sunny day.

Spc. Matthew P. Figgibbons, 24, a combat engineer from Allentown, Pa., assigned to C Company, 23rd Engineer Battalion, caught the show after returning from a mission.

"This is the first time I've seen any of the shows," he said.

The band played a variety of music, prompting several soldiers to do a line dance. They even did old-time favorites like the hokey-pokey.



Maj. Richard Chris Smith

The Iron Horse carries bulk fuel to U.S. base camps all over Task Force Eagle's sector in Northern Bosnia.

Tuzla railroad rides again

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD
and Spc. WILLIAM HALL
203rd MPAD

The Tuzla Regional Railroad recently picked up a brand new customer — Task Force Eagle.

And early reports indicate that it is a mutually beneficial relationship.

The partnership helps revive and fund repairs to the local train system, nearly dormant since the start of the war.

It also enables the task force to move fuel around northeast Bosnia-Herzegovina by rail, which is safer, cheaper and more efficient than trucks alone.

"There is so much satisfaction coming out of this whole process," said Maj. Stephen B. Leisenring, contracting officer for the U.S. Army rail project, "Iron Horse."

"It is one of those rare instances in contracting when you do an evaluation of what is best for the Army, and it also benefits the local economy, its infrastructure and its pride as a nation.

"The rail service means a lot to (the locals people) and always has been a pride and joy in their country," he said.

Task Force Eagle began moving fuel by rail earlier this month.

Fuel from Hungary will continue to arrive by truck at a storage facility at Camp Kime,

where the 102nd Quartermaster Company from Fort Campbell, Ky., recently completed a pipeline to nearby rail station.

From there, fuel is pumped into Tuzla Regional Rail Corp., tank cars bound for camps Alicia, Comanche, Punxsutawney and Rumbaugh.

Units at each destination will then download fuel from the rail cars into tanker trucks as needed.

Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, assistant task force commander for support, conceived the project after exploring ways to reduce congestion, driver fatigue, and wear and tear on roads caused by trucking fuel.

"Our (other) major operational concerns," added Leisenring, "were the high potential for vehicle accidents, the risk of environmental damage and hazards from fuel spills, and the vulnerability for resupply caused by delays and accident."

Leisenring said a seven-car train carries enough fuel to take 21 trucks off the road, reducing by 80 percent the miles driven by fuel carriers.

As an added bonus, transporting fuel by rail costs less, as much as \$644,459 cheaper over the length of the contract, which expires Sept. 30, Leisenring said.

The rail currently moves only JP 8 fuel, used by most U.S. military vehicles and aircraft operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But plans are underway to begin moving diesel fuel, used primarily by contractor Brown & Root Services Corp., which could increase the savings by another \$1.5 to \$2 million.

"We were able to cooperate with local officials — political and business — and utilize some assets they already have."

Capt. Jeffrey A. McDougall
Project Officer

The project also is unique in other ways. "You usually wouldn't think about working with the local populace in a war-time environment, not only because they might not be friendly, but that a lot more damage might be sustained to the rail tracks," said Capt. Jeffrey A. McDougall, project officer.

"In this situation, we were able to cooperate with local officials — political and business — and utilize some assets they already have."

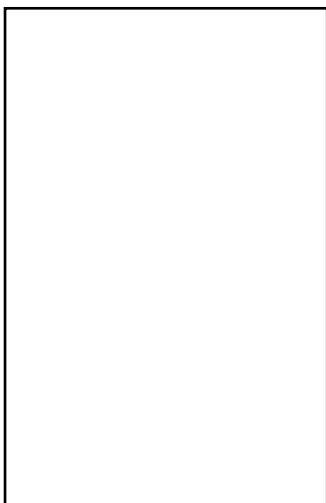
Iron Horse first ran through the countryside last week and attracted the attention of those living near the tracks.

Most had probably not seen or heard a train whistle in years. Many stopped their daily tasks to watch and wave as the train passed by on its historic trip.

"When you see people looking at the train sort of in awe, it makes you feel like you're doing something good," McDougall added.

About 70 percent of the task force's daily fuel requirement of more than 100,000 gallons will eventually move by rail, he said.

The task force is exploring the possibility of using rail transport to move other supplies and equipment, he said.



Maj. Richard Chris Smith

Sgt. Phillip K. Hamlet, 26th Quartermaster Company (Supply), cleans a fitting.

AND THEN THERE'S THE CHILDREN

by Sgt. Tony Chiofalo

*There's the goodbys and tears,
the uncertainty and fears.*

*There's the mud and the dirt,
the pain and the hurt*

...and then there's the children.

*There's the food and the showers,
the long working hours.*

*There's the cold and the heat,
the blisters on our feet*

...and then there's the children.

*There's the tents and the gear,
the drinking near beer.*

*There's the sandbags to fill,
the fear of being killed*

...and then there's the children.

*And then there's the children, who always wave,
as we pass by.*

*Beaming with a precious smile,
making all these things worthwhile.*

And then there's the children...

*Who with one little glance
are thanking us for taking this chance.*

*One look, one hug, one moment shared
will bring a joy beyond compare.*

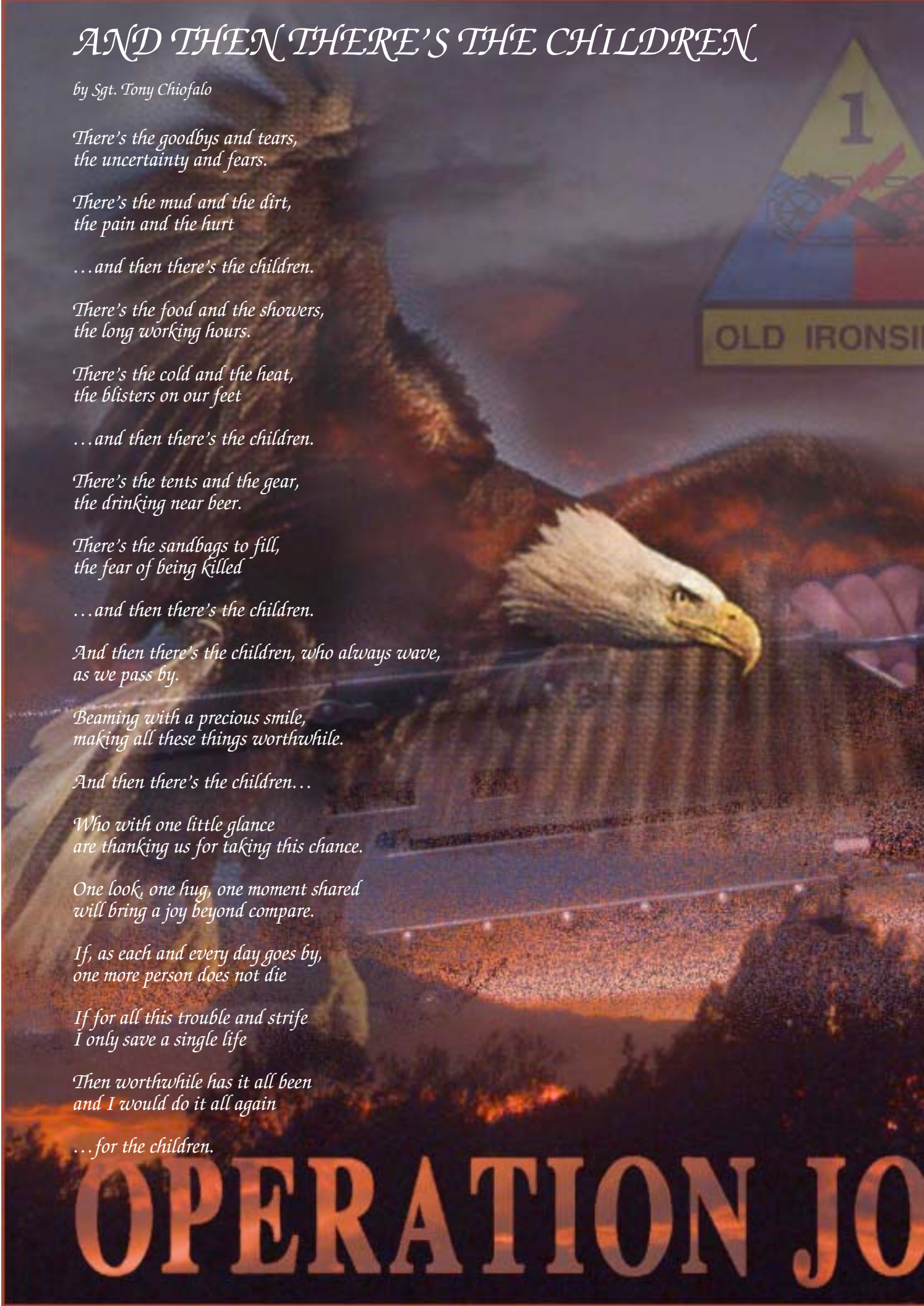
*If, as each and every day goes by,
one more person does not die*

*If for all this trouble and strife
I only save a single life*

*Then worthwhile has it all been
and I would do it all again*

...for the children.

OPERATION JO





INT ENDEAVOR

Image by SPC Glenn W. Suggs, 55th Sig Co. (COMBAT CAMERA)

HUNGARIAN HOLIDAY

Royal treatment awaits in Budapest

By Sgt. KEIRYA LANGKAMP

USAREUR Forward

So you have been waiting with bated breath to indulge in the luxuries of civilization again — a bed, bath tub and TV.

If you are slated to participate in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Pass Program to Budapest, prepare to get four-star service.

The accommodations MWR has arranged for soldiers will put you in the heart of Budapest's history and culture without actually leaving the hotels.

Once the bus arrives at its designated location, the Hilton, Ramada Grand or the Thermal Hotel, the servicemembers and families will receive a warm reception and red carpet treatment from hotel staffs.

Each hotel offers something a little different from the others.

The Ramada Grand Hotel and Thermal Hotel are both situated on Margit Island.

The island — essentially a large scale version of Central Park in New York — offers great running paths, a water park, petting zoo and very romantic thermal bath ruins just behind the Thermal Hotel.

The Ramada Grand decorated with antique baroque furniture offers four-star service and breakfast buffet that is out of this world. The chef will cook your omelettes the way you want them.

The hotels and MWR have doctored up a basement wine cellar with darts, billiards and cable television and dubbed it the "Peacekeepers' Pub." This cozy little atmosphere is limited to U.S. troops and their guests.

Beverage service at the Peacekeepers' Pub starts at 4 p.m. You can even order a coke and get ice!

The hamburgers are supposed to be pretty good, and the drinks are more affordable than the Victoria Bar, upstairs.

The Ramada offers a number of small restaurants and eating options for a hungry stomach.

The Thermal Hotel, which you can reach from the Ramada via an underground tunnel, has a warm and friendly staff who will go out of their way to make your stay pleasant.

The clientele at the hotel is primarily 45 and older, so it is advisable to watch your P's and Q's, and remember we are ambassadors.

The Thermal offers therapeutic and fitness oriented facilities. There are three thermal baths, an indoor swimming pool, sauna, sun terrace, solarium, massage and mud packing.

With the exception of the last three,

all the facilities are free. The towel is provided by the spa area but you need to bring your swimsuit and shower shoes.

Upstairs there is a beauty salon for those who feel like pampering themselves.

The five-star Hilton Hotel was built directly into the remains of a 13th century Dominican cloister.

The facade of the building is from an original baroque building constructed in 1688. The Hilton is in the heart of Budapest's castle district. Everywhere you look, it's a Kodak moment.

There are many dining options, including lobster, in the Dominican Restaurant.

If you are in the mood for typically Hungarian cuisine with Gypsy music, the Kalocsa Restaurant next to the Dominican will satisfy your taste buds.

The Hilton is located adjacent to the Matthias Church, a fairytale-like Disney structure called the Fisherman's Bastion, and sits opposite the Parliament building on the Danube River. Each room offers a view not to miss.

You can absorb the history of Budapest without leaving your hotel room, but this isn't advisable.



Sgt. Milton Hernandez

Staff Sgt. Keith Harris and Sgt. Joseph Grainger, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, look through a menu at the Hilton's Fisherman's Bastion.

What is advisable is for you to take advantage of the MWR shuttle that will get you in and around town and to all the major sight-seeing locations. It's safe, convenient, clean and free!

The MWR Budapest handbook you will receive before arriving at your accommodations is a traveler's bible. It will explain the ins and outs, do's and don'ts and how to avoid local scams.

It will even explain what you are looking at from your room with a view.



Sgt. Keirya Langkamp

Soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, and their spouses grab their bags and head off to Never-Never Land (Thermal Hotel).

REST AND RECUPERATION

Travel agency eases transportation details

Going home for some R&R? Need help getting a ride from Philadelphia or making travel plans for once you land in Frankfurt, Germany?

There is a new travel agency in town to help you get to your final destination.

Carlson Wagonlit Travel can help you make your transportation reservations.

Once soldiers know their R&R date, they can use Carlson Wagonlit to get the best rate for airline, bus, or train tickets and

rental cars.

There are several different ways to get your travel reservation request to Carlson Wagonlit.

You can get your reservation information to them via e-mail, fax, commercial phone call or to their APO address.

Don't have access to e-mail? According Task Force Eagle personnel officials, most unit S1s have e-mail access that you can coordinate with to use.

When Carlson Wagonlit opens its office at Eagle Base, Tuzla, you will be able to make reservations over the digital, nonsecure, voice telephone lines or you can visit the office near the airfield in person.

If you have time before you go on R&R, you can use the APO system.

The form printed below should be sent to Carlson Wagonlit via the ways mentioned above or mailed to the address below.

(Clip and use)

Booking Request Form for Private Travel Version 5

WE CAN BE CONTACTED BY THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

PHONE: CIV (49) 6169-939892

FAX: CIV (49) 6196-939889

E-MAIL: Cwtltravel@aol.com or [smtp:Cwtltravel@aol.com]

Carlson Wagonlit Travel

Unit # 7405

TO MAKE A RESERVATION THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED

REQUEST DATE:

TICKETS TO PICKED UP AT RHEIN MAIN

Box 90

APO, AE 09050

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

TRAVELER(S) NAMES (LAST/FIRST) AGES

APO ADDRESS

E-MAIL ADDRESS

UNIT

PHONE (CIV AND MILITARY)

FAX (CIV)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON TRAVEL

DATE

FM : (CITY & STATE)

TO: (CITY & STATE)

TIME

DATE

FM: (CITY & STATE)

TO: (CITY & STATE)

NLT TIME & DATE

AMC FLIGHT INFORMATION

DATE

FROM

TO

TIME DEPART

ARRIVAL

SEAT REQUEST: (IF NOT SPECIFIED, NON-SMOKING AISLE WILL BE REQUESTED)

SMOKING: () YES () NO () WINDOW () AISLE

FORM OF PAYMENT: () CASH () VISA () MASTERCARD () AMERICAN EXPRESS () DINERS CLUB

EXPIRATION DATE: CREDIT CARD NUMBER:

CAR RENTAL

PICK UP DATE

HOTEL RESERVATION

CHECK-IN DATE

PICK UP POINT

DROP OFF DATE

ROOM TYPE

CHECK-OUT DATE

DROP OFF POINT

SIZE/NO. OF PEOPLE

CITY & LOCATION

SIZE/NO. OF PEOPLE

REMARKS:

SIGNATURE:

Team monitors force protection issues

By Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — Force Protection Team 14 went out of the wire recently.

"A force protection patrol looks for any kind of issue that could be a threat to an IFOR soldier," said team Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge Staff Sgt. Shone H. Wilson, D Company, 165th Military Intelligence Battalion, Hanau, Germany.

Their area of operation is four grid squares around the camp.

"We'll go out several times a week," Wilson said. "We usually find something on each walk that we'll come back to for a second look."

Of course, seeing IFOR troops on a walk in a neighborhood draws attention. So, each team has a translator.

Team 14's translator is Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sanja Djerek, electrician's mate, on temporary duty from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"Most of the time the people are pretty nice," Djerek said. A native of Beograd, Yugoslavia, Djerek moved to Chicago in 1993, and joined the Navy in 1994.

Contact with local people is an important part of the job.



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Sanja Djerek (left), and Staff Sgt. Shone H. Wilson speak with a local woman during a recent force protection patrol.

"We want to show the people we mean them no harm," Wilson said. "The first meeting is an ice breaker. We may not see them again, but there's always that chance we will see them again and they will remember the first meeting."

It's important to gain the people's trust, he said.

"When we see them over and over on our walks and have been friendly to them, they are willing to talk to us,"

said Wilson.

Although the patrols are now routine, team members are mindful of their own security. They take a radio with them and constantly remain aware of their surroundings.

"I remember the first time out," said team member Spc. Steve K. Walker. "I was nervous, and didn't know what to expect — what threats were out there."

"After two or three times, I

became comfortable, but I still keep my guard up, because there could still be that threat out there," Walker said.

Walker appreciates his job. "I'm glad to have the opportunity to go on the force protection walks, leave the camp and speak to the local people."

"Some walks are productive and force protection issues are found," Wilson said.

"Other times are just a good walk."

Quick reaction forces work hard to stay sharp, ready

By Sgt. DAVE PALAZZOLO
358th MPAD

LODGMNT AREA LISA — The team of soldiers line up on a dusty road. The day is hot and several of them are gulping water from clear water bottles.

The noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Sgt. Holli Benson, carefully inspects each soldier.

After Benson is satisfied the team is ready, the soldiers form an inverted wedge and make their way to the outside perimeter.

Benson, of 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, is in charge of the dismounted Quick Reaction Force. But he only has the job for a week.

"The QRF rotates through a new group every week," said Capt. Jeff Gardner, a 2nd Brigade Combat Team intelligence officer who is in charge of the QRF.

"They go through pretty intense train-



Sgt. Dave Palazzolo

Spc. Jimmy Tinapay, a 2nd Brigade QRF team member, patrols the perimeter of LA Lisa.

ing. They are trained by soldiers (who pulled QRF) last week and they have to qualify on all mission essential tasks."

All QRF soldiers go through a training session that takes them through various scenarios to help them react quickly to any situation.

The soldiers work 12-hour shifts. However, they remain on call when they are off, and must stay together.

"They shower together, eat together and sleep together," Gardner said.

"They patrol the perimeter several times a week," he said. "This familiarizes the soldiers with the avenues of approach, the terrain, and how the lodgment area looks like from the outside."

Patrolling is serious work.

"The purpose of the patrol is to make sure no one (else) is patrolling outside our wire and to look for signs of anyone probing us," Gardner said.

"I really enjoy the experience," Benson said. "It shows us what we are capable of."

Spc. Nester Gonzalez, a field artilleryman, also likes the job.

"I usually don't get a chance like this to run around, check on people or a break in the perimeter," he said. "It's pretty cool."

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Cook serves soldiers cuisine with a smile

By **Spc. GEORGE ROACHE**
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — One Army cook has found the right recipe for serving deployed soldiers.

"People are grumpy first thing in the morning, so I joke with them," said Pfc. Mary Schmeisser, 26, of Erie, Pa. "When they get that A-rat (fresh food) meal in the morning, they get a little smile. I try to be a little chipper, to have fun while working.

"A smile here and there fills the spirit side as well as the stomach side. It makes my day go well, too."

Schmeisser started her military career in November 1993 as an Army Reserve truck driver.

When she went active in January 1995, the Army had no open slots for truckers, so she became a cook. After attending cook school at Fort Lee, Va., she was assigned to HHC, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation based in Hanau, Germany, for a two-year tour.

Now in Bosnia-Herzegovina on her first deployment, she takes special pride in feeding the soldiers in Task Force Eagle.

"Some people said in trucking school that if you wash out as a truck driver, they'll make you a cook," she said.

"People don't realize cooking is not that easy. It's more than just dealing with a fork and spoon. It takes a lot of teamwork and dedication."

The hours are odd, she said. Cooks work



1st Sgt. Benoit Palmer

Pfc. Mary Schmeisser prepares a meal in the Comanche Base dining facility's kitchen.

from 3 to 11 a.m. one day and from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. the next. On a typical morning, they have only three hours to fry the bacon and hash browns, dip the French toast, crack the eggs, mix the grits and oatmeal, brew the coffee and prepare the dining hall.

Cooks view the food they place on the serving line as their "product" and work hard to prepare it, Schmeisser said.

They aren't always content with just following the recipe if they can whip up something more creative.

"Take spaghetti sauce," she said, remembering the kind her Italian mother makes. She may go along with the Army recipe card, but also will add an ingredient or two to make the meal more like home cooking.

Keeping a clean kitchen is as important

as preparing a good product.

"I want them to know my kitchen is clean and their food is prepared in a very sanitized area. If I go in (someplace) and see trash all over the place, I wouldn't eat there," she said.

Her work doesn't stop when she leaves the dining facility. She pulls guard duty like other soldiers.

When she finishes cooking, she goes down to the motor pool to do preventive maintenance and service checks on her unit's trucks.

"I have a mission," she said. "I'm not just a cook; I'm a soldier."

Schmeisser's father spent part of his 10 years in the military in Vietnam. Serving in the former Yugoslavia gives the two something in common.

"He did a mission; I'm doing a mission at the present time," she said. "I have that commonality with him — living in another country and being able to go home and tell family and friends what I've seen.

"People back in the states think they have a hard life. I've seen houses blown up. I have never seen so many houses with bullet holes in my life. It's pathetic, and people are still living in them," she said.

But every time she sees helicopters flying overhead and trucks and tanks driving by, she feels that by serving good meals, she's played a role.

"We all pitch in together to make this (deployment) happen, and being a cook — that's a big part," she said. "You have to make sure your soldiers are fed."

Aviation units use decon equipment to remove grime

By **Spc. ROB BISHOP**
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — Cleaning the Bosnian mud off vehicles has become easier for the mechanics and vehicle drivers of the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade, thanks to the M-17 lightweight decontamination system, known as the Senator (pronounced sen-ay-tor).

"It looks like a big steam cleaner," said Sgt. Waun Priest.

He is the nuclear, biological and chemical noncommissioned officer and decontamination specialist for the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

"But it has a lot more pressure than the average steam cleaner."

This "big steam cleaner" must be carried by two to four

people. It sprays water at a temperature of 320 degrees Fahrenheit, Priest said.

The Senator also can spray soap with water to aid in decontamination.

The Senator is a versatile machine.

"You can use the Senator as a vehicle wash, decontamination apparatus, fire-fighting equipment or even a shower," Priest said.

"When I was in Saudi, we used Senators as shower points," he said.

"We just took them to the airfield in Kuwait City and set them up there."

At Comanche Base, motor pool mechanics use the Senator to clean the vehicles they repair, Priest said.

"Instead of having a mechanic scrub at a tire with a brush so he can fix it, he can just spray it with the Sena-



Spc. Rob Bishop

Staff Sgt. Ricardo Flores, A Company, 141st Signal Battalion, washes dirt off a HMMWV with the Senator.

tor," he said.

Mud is no match for its power.

"It's one of the best things the military has for cleaning vehicles," Priest said.

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"There are very hard political, economic and social issues that must be addressed," Nash said. "Today we take the spot light off the military and put it on some of those other areas that are key to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The Emergency Shelter Repair Program is designed to help 2,500 families in 44 villages like this one quickly return to their old homes and begin taking control of their lives, said Craig Buck, USAID director for Bosnia.

The effort will also create about 2,000 local jobs. Buck said that he hopes many of the hires will be recently decommissioned soldiers.

Most of the selected villages are in or near the Task Force Eagle sector, including several in the Maglaj and Tuzla areas.

About 50 privately owned homes in each location will be repaired. The program covers only emergency repairs to homes badly damaged yet still structurally sound.

Local contractors and workers will fix and weatherize up to two rooms in each house.

Home owners must be able to prove pre-1991 ownership to be eligible, Buck said.

USAID hopes to have repairs to all 2,500 home complete before next winter.

While the USAID will provide the funding, actual program implementation will be handled by eight non-governmental relief organizations, including CARE International and the Catholic Relief Service.

"This program will help a lot," said Osmic Mehmadahija, president of the village council, through an interpreter.

A fierce, four-day battle here in August 1992 left 100 dead and about half of the town's buildings damaged, he said.

U.S. dollars will now cover repairs to more than 100 homes damaged in that battle and subsequent fighting, according to USAID.

"This will help people feel useful and help some families live good lives," Mehmadahija said.

A GREAT DAY

Russian brigade commander gets star

EAGLE BASE — The commander of the Separate Russian Airborne Brigade for Task Force Eagle, Col. Alexandr Lentsov, was promoted to general major, Tuesday. Lentsov's wife Marina traveled from Moscow to Tuzla to deliver the good news.

Task Force Eagle Commander, Maj. Gen. William L. Nash said, "I'm delighted with Alexandr Lentsov's promotion. He is a top notch professional who is held in the highest respect by myself and his fellow multinational brigade commanders here in Task Force Eagle."

The 39-year-old Russian graduated from Riazanie Airborne Military School in 1978, and from his nation's Military Academy in 1989. From 1979 to 1982, Lentsov served in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He



Spc. Kyle Davis

Gen. Maj. Alexandr Lentsov and his wife, Marina.

spent three months in Chechnya before arriving here.

Lentsov and his wife have a 17-year-old son.

The Russian Brigade is headquartered in Ugljevik and has more than 1,500 soldiers.

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latest achievement.

Swaine, a 30-year-old Jamaica native who now calls Delray Beach, Fla., home, won the 210th Field Artillery Brigade Soldier of the Quarter in 1987 in Ansbach, Germany. He was a Distinguished Honor Graduate of Apache Mechanic School at Fort Eustis, Va. and won 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) NCO of the Quarter in 1991 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He was named 4th Brigade NCO of the Year April 26, the day after his selection to the prestigious Sgt. Morales Club.

Support from his chain of command and platoon gave him all the motivation he needed, Swaine said.

"It gave me the incentive to win because I am representing them," he said. "The thing that I am most proud of is that Spc. Sipe won. We worked together on this."

Sipe, 24, of Charlotte, N.C., was a Distinguished Honor Graduate of Advanced Individual Training in 1994. He was 3rd

Battalion, 227th Aviation, Soldier of the Year in March 1995; and a top scorer at the 2nd Battalion promotion board in March 1996.

They learned from each other while studying under D Company 1st Sgt. Ronnie Garrett and 2nd Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company First Sgt. Russell Sadler. Swaine, the section sergeant, had the experience; Sipe had the fresh perspective on the military.

Sipe also gave credit to other soldiers for taking up the slack on the flight line and in the maintenance shop.

"It's been hard on them," he said. "They have a hand in how far I've come, and the very least I can do is study and win."

The V Corps competition is next and 4th Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Lawrence is confident about their chances.

"Both soldiers won for two basic reasons — self-dedication and hard study," he said. "Sipe has got the talent to go as far as he can go and Swaine is a hard challenger. He just never gives up."

ACAP sets workshop schedule

Servicemembers separating from the military are encouraged to attend two-day Pre-separation Briefings and Job Assistance Workshops now being held in the Task Force Eagle area of operations.

The briefings are being given by a five-person team from the Army Career and Alumni Program.

Servicemembers are required to attend a pre-separation briefing no later than 90 days before separating from the military.

The team will visit the following locations: Camp Linda, May 12-13; Camp Demi, May 12-13; and Gradacac, May 15-16.

For Army personnel, the ACAP team will get the necessary information the soldiers' Transition Center needs to prepare separation or retirement orders and the DD Form 214.

Team members also will assist soldiers with transfers or enlistments into the Army National Guard or Army Reserve.

All clients will learn about separation benefits and entitlements and will get a head start on their search for new careers through job assistance workshops and counseling.

To enrol in a workshop soldiers may contact their unit personnel section or ACAP in Germany at DSN 322-8298/8356.